

Minutes of St. Jerome Pastoral Council Meeting of 3/12/07

In Attendance: Dan Loch, Father Dave, Woody Wood, Andy Carney, Pat Olson, MJ Bruno, Claire Budnik, Kathy Jaeger, Rebecca Sweeney, John Wagner, Kevin Smyth, Ronalee Grant, Rich Vicenzi, and Kathy Coyne.

Father Dave led the council in prayer and reflection in the church. Minutes from the January 22 meeting were previously distributed and approved via email.

Pastor's Report:

Bible Study: Turnout so far for the Jeff Cavins Bible Study is good. Eighty kits were ordered for the classes and there are only 3 kits left. Classes are meeting on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 AM and Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM in the parish hall.

Parish Hall Makeover: Thanks to the \$20,000 grant from the Culpeper Foundation the renovation of the two classrooms in the lower hall is complete. In addition, the paneling on the long wall in the hall was removed, the wall was refurbished and the entire hall was painted. New curtains were installed throughout.

Faith Direct: In the first month of the new offertory giving program, 36 households signed up. We hope to generate more interest in the program. The Finance Committee is inserting a letter in next week's bulletin which will explain the parish and diocesan financial controls which hopefully will address any concerns. On the weekend of March 24-25, Judd Mellott will address all the Masses to promote the merits of the Faith Direct program and enrollment forms will be placed in all the pews.

New Parish Trustee: Father Dave recently appointed parishioner Angela Carey to replace Terry Petraia who moved to Nevada in November. He also explained the trustee system.

GIFT (Growing in Faith Together): The Lenten GIFT session held on February 11 was a success and about 160 people attended. The next GIFT session takes place on Sunday, March 25 from 9:00-11:30am and will focus on the Triduum. This session is required for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders and it is anticipated that we will have the same number of attendees.

TOTAL: TOTAL's prayer presentation of *The Fourteen Steps* will take place on Friday, April 6 at 8:00 PM. Rehearsals are well underway.

Parish Projects:

Parish Newsletter: The deadline for the next newsletter is March 24 and is scheduled to be released in time for Easter.

Newcomers: Welcome folders are all set to go for families new to our parish. Nice job, Erin!

May 20 Meet the Parish Groups and Open House: Kathy Jaeger, Rebecca Sweeney and MJ Bruno will head the event. Parishioners will have the opportunity to learn about the various

ministries and volunteer opportunities at St. Jerome in an informal open house setting. Two tents will be set up on the blacktop outside the hall and light refreshments will be served.

Speakers from Parish Committees to Address Parish Council: Dan composed a letter to send to parish committees inviting a spokesperson to attend a council meeting to discuss upcoming projects or special needs with which the council can assist. The committees include social concerns, liturgy, religious education, women's guild, festival and raffle committees, widow/widowers support group, funeral reception, music ministry, finance committee, buildings and grounds, and the soup kitchen team. The letter also invites them to participate in the May 20 Open House.

Americares Homefront: St. Jerome's next project is located on Nash Place in Norwalk. On March 15, Woody Wood and parishioner Joe Opalinski will take a look at the house to determine what repairs need to be done. Bulletin announcements will be made and volunteer sign up sheets will be posted on or after March 30.

Parish Elections: Dan drafted a detailed timeline to be used for our parish elections. Great job, Dan! Judd Mellott and Rich Vicenzi will assist Dan with this year's elections.

Church Security: We are still in the process of securing cameras and getting bids on the wiring for the church.

New Business:

Festival: Time to start thinking about where to have it this year – Cranbury Park or St. Jerome?

Altar Servers: In light of the recent local newspaper press about female altar servers, the Council members present this evening took a vote and unanimously agreed that our girls should be allowed to continue in this important and special ministry. They are doing an awesome job.

The next council meeting will be held on April 9. Father Dave led the council in closing prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Claire Budnik
Council Secretary